Water Quality Update

Minute Levels of 1,4-Dioxane Detected in TCE Plume

Continued from Front Cover

preliminary health related standards set by the USEPA.One part per billion is the same as one ounce in 7.8 million gallons of water. 1,4-dioxane is a solvent commonly found in cosmetics and toiletries, paints and varnishes,and is also used as a stabilizer for volatile compounds similar to TCE. (Please Note: This compound should not be confused with dioxin.) Although the USEPA has not set a Maximum Contaminant Level for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water, that Agency has listed the compound as a probable human carcinogen and has set a Preliminary Remediation Goal of 6.1 ppb and a health-based advisory level of 3 ppb.

Tucson Water will continue to monitor the levels of 1,4-dioxane in the TCE remediation area and will be prepared to reduce the concentration of the substance in the water if levels approach the USEPA Preliminary Remediation Guideline level or any future USEPA drinking water standard.

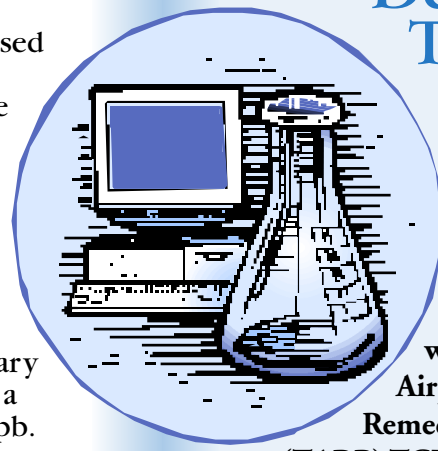
Additional information is available on Tucson Water's website at **www.cityoftucson.org/water**.

Your WATER Connection

News & Tips for Tucson Water Customers

Water Quality Update

Minute Levels of 1,4-Dioxane Detected in TCE Plume



Based on information released from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Tucson Water began testing water at the Tucson Airport Area Remediation Project (TARP) TCE Treatment Plant for a substance called 1,4-dioxane.

Levels found in the water were approximately 1.5 parts per billion (ppb) – only slightly above the limit of testing technology to detect the substance and well below any

Continued on Back

Manzo Students Honored for Music Video

TUSD music teacher Lori Fraesdorf, along with teacher Lizeth Quijada-Grijalva and her 5th grade class at Manzo Elementary School, were honored by Tucson's Mayor and Council recently for their starring roles in Tucson Water's music video about reclaimed water. With Lori's expert help they wrote the words and music, then sang and acted in the video, which will be used by the utility to market reclaimed water. You can catch the video periodically on television on Tucson Cable 12.

TUSD music teacher Lori Fraesdorf, Tucson Water Director Dave Modeer (L), and Manzo Elementary School teacher Lizeth Quijada-Grijalva (R) with the students who star in the "Reclaimed Water (Has Lately Made the News)" music video.

More Water$mart Workshops

FREE Classes

More popular Water$mart workshops have been scheduled for this fall. These free workshops, sponsored by Tucson Water, help you design, install, operate, and maintain a water smart drip irrigation system at your home. Workshops also include information on xeriscaping–selecting low water use plants for your garden, and irrigation timers.
* Class size is limited and reservations are required. Call 622-7701 to reserve your place.

September 7, 2002
Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell Avenue
9:00am-12:00pm Desert Landscaping
1:00-4:00pm Hands-On Drip Irrigation*

September 21, 2002
Tohono Chul Park (Desert Discovery Center)
7366 N. Paseo Del Norte
9:00am-12:00pm Hands-On Drip Irrigation*
1:00-3:00pm Irrigation Timers

October 16, 2002
Tucson Botanical Gardens (Education Building)
2150 N. Alvernon Way
9:00-12:00am Desert Landscaping

November 2, 2002
Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell Avenue
9:00am-12:00pm Hands-On Drip Irrigation*
1:00-3:00pm Irrigation Timers

For more information, visit Tucson Water's web site at **www.cityoftucson.org/water** and click on the "events" button.

On the Water Front

Where will our water come from in the future? The answer becomes more complicated each year with new water quality testing methods, changing water quality regulations,shifts in long-term weather patterns,costs of power and many other factors.All of these must be considered when studying the issue of Tucson's long-term water supply and its quality.

Improvements in water testing technology recently allowed us to identify very low levels of 1,4-dioxane in some water at our Tucson Airport Area Remediation TCE Treatment Facility. Although the levels of this substance in our water are not a health concern,it's a reminder that new scientific research and ever more stringent water quality regulations can potentially cause changes in our water supply.

I recently spent a few days in Colorado and learned that the drought there has been and continues to be much worse than the one Tucson experienced earlier this year. Portions of the Colorado River in Utah and Colorado are nearly dry and experts are predicting that this pattern may continue for many years.Because we rely on Colorado River water for about 25% of our water supply (and that will increase during the next few years),the drought up north could have a long-term impact on the amount of water we receive through the Central Arizona Project canal.

These are both reminders of how important it is that we maintain our community ethic of wise water use and how important it is to plan for the future of our water resources. Tucson Water is beginning a long-range planning process and we'll be asking for your help on that in the future. We'll also be telling you what the City is doing to conserve water and asking you to remember that water conservation is not just for summer. Thanks for remembering that we live in a desert and for working with us to make sure we have enough water for future generations.

David V. Modeer
Director
Tucson
Water

Clearwater Quality Report - August 2002

47	Sodium (ppm)
285	Mineral Content (ppm)
96*	Hardness (ppm)
8.1	pH (units)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
1.06	Chlorine level average (ppm)
85.6	Temp (deg F)

** Values for July*

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at http://wwwcityoftucson.org/water

The Water Connection **is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.**

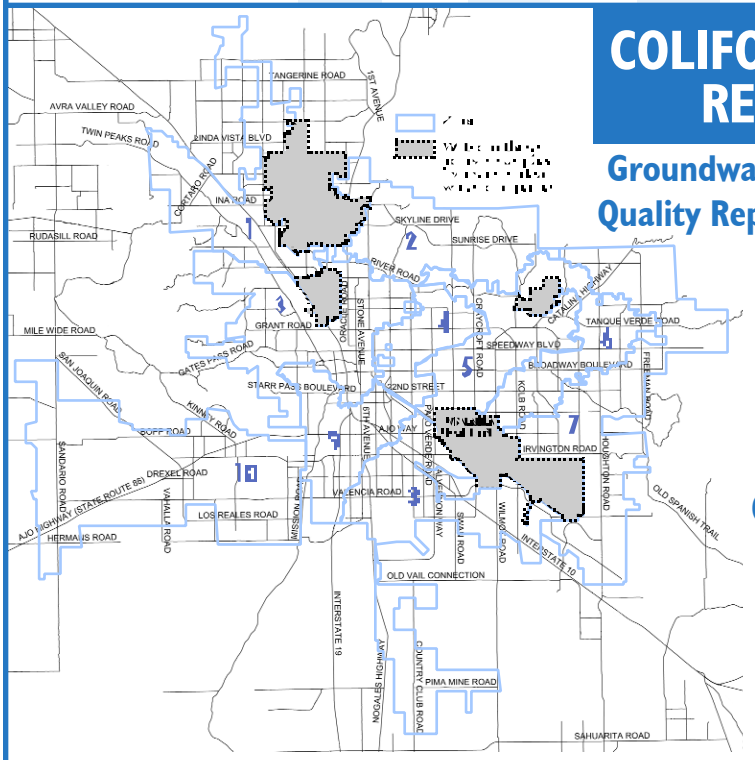
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.

TUCSON WATER

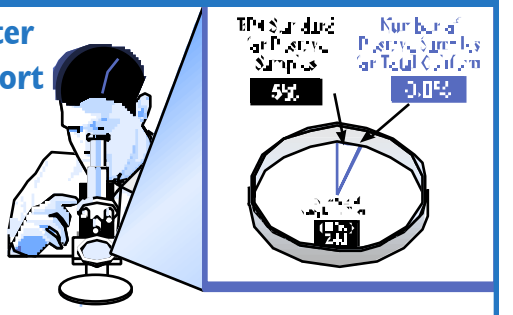
GROUNDWATER QUALITY REPORT - June 2002

	Water Quality Zone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average	47	43	43	37	36	36	30	41	59	42	40
	Range	32-59	41-45	23-64	27-48	30-45	27-42	24-38	37-43	40-122	41-43	23-122
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average	397	276	322	225	238	242	228	327	280	218	269
	Range	173-554	253-306	196-509	189-302	173-301	209-286	179-298	284-440	208-612	209-233	173-612
Hardness (ppm)	Average	164	114	117	92	101	110	108	170	117	79	116
	Range	64-228	98-128	91-229	74-103	78-118	88-132	83-121	136-269	76-319	77-83	64-319
pH (units)	Average	7.3	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.8	7.7	7.6
	Range	7.1-7.6	7.3-8.0	7.3-7.9	7.2-8.1	7.1-8.0	6.9-7.9	7.2-8.0	7.1-8.0	7.0-8.2	7.6-7.9	6.9-8.2
Temperature (deg F)	Average	84	89	85	88	86	84	86	86	90	88	87
	Range	78-92	86-93	77-96	77-92	77-94	72-91	82-89	80-92	83-100	86-91	72-100

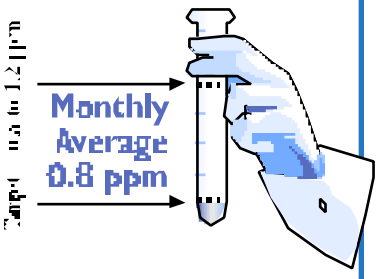


COLIFORM BACTERIA TESTING RESULTS - June 2002

Groundwater Quality Report



Chlorine Level Average



"PPM" means one part per million; 1 ppm = 1 teaspoon in 1,320 gallons

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.